Changing Urban Environments

Question 2: What are the key ideas for this topic?

- ***Urbanisation has happened at different rates and times in richer and poorer countries***
- ***Different parts of urban areas have different functions and land use***
- ***Many issues in richer cities, housing rundown CBD's***
- ***Ethnic segregation and solutions***
- ***Rapid urbanisation***
- ***Development of squatter settlements***
- ***The informal economy***
- ***Improving squatter settlements***
- ***Self help and site and service schemes***
- ***Environmental impacts of rapid urbanisation***
- ***Sustainable urban living***

Urbanisation

Urbanisation is the process where an increasing proportion of the population lives in towns and cities (and there is a reduction in living in rural areas.)

•**Rural - urban migration** is a process in which people move from the countryside to towns or cities.

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Push and Pull Factors

Reasons for migration out of rural areas are called push factors.

•Reasons for migrating to cities are called pull factors.

Push Factors	•**Pull Factors**
•Limited transport, •lack of food and water, •poor housing, no health care, •lack of sanitation, •poor quality of life, •lack of infrastructure, flooding, •drought, •high crime rates, •war, •Poor education.	•Employment, •better quality of life, • more use of facilities eg. schools and hospitals, •better access to food and water, • better housing, •better infrastructure, •better education, •lower crime rates, •political security, •lower risk of natural disaster.

Fastest in poor countries

- Young people migrate to urban areas for work
- They have children there
- Better health care there

Key Points

- Over half of the world's population now live in cities
- 90% of the population in richer countries live in towns and cities
- There are now **16 mega cities** in the world
- **Mega cities** have a population of over 10 million people

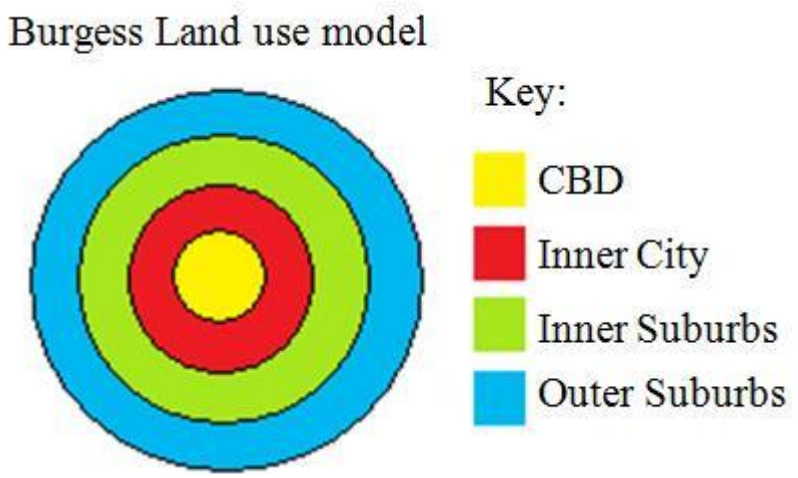
The Burgess Model

•Designed in the 1920's by Ed Burgess in Chicago,

• Breaks cities down into 5 areas using concentric rings.

•Each ring/area has a different function/job.

•It describes the different areas of a city.



Inside Cities

CBD's: Central Business district. This is the core of the city containing shops, offices, entertainment places etc. Sites are expensive because of the shortage of space.

Inner City: On the edge of the CBD, housing is often small rented rooms, crime rates are higher and there are smaller industries such as printing, garages etc. Used to include a lot of manufacturing. Streets are often in grid patterns with little to no vegetation/green spaces.

Inner city areas have often undergone **'gentrifcation'** designed to make them appeal to younger workers.

Suburbs, inner and outer: changing from Semi-Detached to Detached housing the further from the city you go. Transport links are used to take people into the city easily. Will usually have driveways and green open spaces such as parks. Houses are usually larger due to the increase in space with bigger gardens and wider roads.

Rural Urban Fringe: Is on the edge of the city and new housing estates are often built here, as well as big retail and leisure parks. It can contain villages and fields as well as recreational facilities such as golf courses.

Industrial Areas: on the edge of the city centre, near railways (good transportation links) but there can be traffic/congestion problems

Change over time

•Land use can change over time - for example,
•In the UK shopping centres have been built in out-of-town locations which have forced shops in CBD to close down.
•Housing estates in the inner city have replaced tower blocks built in the 1950's and 60's.
•The Inner city is usually no longer to manufacturing industries.
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Cities in poorer countries

- CBD still in the centre
- Richer area located around the CBD with access to modern shops and services
- Cheaper housing is found further out of the city
- Industry is usually found along the main roads and railways in wedges
- Slums are usually found right on the edge

Green field Site	Brownfield site
• Never been built on before • Building ruins the environment Cheaper to build on	• Redeveloped site • More sustainable • More expensive to build on

Advantages of Greenfield sites	Advantages of Brownfield sites
• New sites don't need clearing so can be cheaper to prepare • No restrictions of existing road network • Pleasant countryside environment may appeal to potential home owners • Some shops and business parks on outskirts provide local facilities • Land cheaper on outskirts so plots can be larger • More space for gardens	• Sites in cities are not left derelict and/or empty • Utilities such as water and electricity are already provided • Roads already exist • Near to facilities in town centres, e.g. shops, entertainment and places of work • Cuts commuting

Britain's need for housing

More Housing

Some richer countries (UK) have housing shortages in urban areas these are how they are solved and tackled:

Urban renewal schemes: Government strategies first widely used in the 1990s Encourage investment in new housing, services and employment in derelict inner city areas. A successful example is the dockland development in Liverpool - the derelict docks were converted into high quality housing with good local services

New towns: Brand new towns to house overspill populations from existing towns. Harlow is a new town built for that purpose in 1947.

Relocation incentives: Incentives are used to encourage those who do not need to live in the city to move out of urban areas. For example, the London council encourage the elderly to move to the seaside and others by paying them money.

Birmingham a City in the richer world.

- The UK's second largest city
- Population over 1 million.
- Home to the Bullring shopping Centre.

Issues facing Birmingham

- Not enough good quality affordable housing
- Too much traffic and pollution
- A CBD with rundown and unused buildings
- High unemployment in certain areas.
- A mixed culture with ethnic segregation

Revitalising CBDS

Some CBDS are becoming run down due to other out-of-town shopping centres and business parks, which have cheaper rent and are easier to drive to.

CASE STUDY: MEDC REVITALISING CBD: BIRMINGHAM

- In the 1950's Birmingham was an exciting market place with lots of shops
- 1960's – development of the old Bullring (one of the largest in the world at the time)
- 1980's – had not changed much and was falling behind other areas
- 2000's – the new Bullring is now one of the newest and largest shopping centres in the UK.

The New Street Development

- Lighting – makes people feel safer at night
- Dustbins – so people can throw litter away – keeps clean
- Trees – look attractive and absorb pollution
- Benches – create relaxed atmosphere and people can sit down
- Information boxes – help people find their way around
- Pedestrianized streets – shoppers are safe from cars

The Bull Ring (REDEVELOPMENT)

- The largest retail regeneration project in Europe, costing £500 million. Reopened as a shopping centre in June 2003
- 140 shops (including Debenhams), cafes and restaurants
- 3,100 new car parking spaces
- Creation of 8,000 new jobs
- 36.5 million visitors in its first year
- £2 million invested in public art features

Impact of the Bull Ring shopping Centre

Positive	Negative
Elevated Birmingham's retail ranking from thirteenth to third in the country.	Shops outside The Bullring are making a loss, e.g. Beatties department store on Corporation St. Revealed sales were down 8% over the year (£1.9 million).
Currently generates £209 million per year.	It cost £500 million to build.
Birmingham's sphere of influence has increased substantially, stretching to areas such as Telford and Shrewsbury.	Some people dislike the modern architecture and consider it a visual eyesore.
Boosting the local economy and hoped to lead to the funding for better transport services.	Commuters and shoppers are leading to increased traffic congestion, particularly around the ring road.
Around 36 million people visit the Bullring every year generating wealth and creating jobs in the CBD.	Loss of culture – building The Bullring meant losing the market square at the heart of Birmingham's CBD
	Around 36 million people visit the Bullring every year creating extra congestion.

Dealing with traffic in a richer city

Birmingham City Council's transport strategy:

- Increased number of buses has led to an increase in passenger numbers, e.g. on route 69 there has been a 27% increase
- 11 extra key rail routes for commuters, e.g. the Jewellery line in operation since 1995
- Metro (Light Railway) links Birmingham and Wolverhampton (20.4km in 35 mins) It allows people to quickly access the CBD every 10 minutes. Built in 1999 it cost £145 million.
- The investment in public transport has meant that 48% of all trips into the city during peak community hours are made by bus and rail
- £500 million has been spent redeveloping Birmingham New Street station, a vital hub linking the North and South of Britain.

Other solutions to traffic problems

Park and ride	Drivers leave cars outside of the city	Reduces cars in city, reduces congestion and air/noise pollution.
Bus Lanes	Special lanes around the city that only buses and taxi's can use.	Buses are quicker and not held up by traffic Reduces cars on road bringing down congestion and noise/air pollution levels.
Congestion Charge	People have to pay to enter certain zones in the city such as Central London. .	Money raised can be used to improve public transport The extra cost of travel forces people out of cars and on to public transport.

Multicultural Cities

A variety of ethnic backgrounds can be found in the CBD.

When ethnic groups live in an area of the city separate from others it is called **ethnic segregation.**

Ethnic groups tend to live in same area because:

•Same language, religion, background- cultural similarities
•Live near place of worship e.g mosque, synagogue.
•Same ethnic group restricted for a reason, e.g money problems, forced to locate together in cheaper housing.

Supporting Ethnic Minorities

•Help them access information about services by putting out leaflets in a variety of languages such as Arabic and Polish: examples being medical documents.

•Improve communications, involve leaders of different ethnic communities when making decisions. This leads to inclusiveness and will help in dealing with cultural sensitivities.

•Offer suitable services, for example in some countries it is unacceptable to be seen by a different gender doctor, make sure that the appropriate services are available. In Birmingham health workers are based in community centers, mosques and schools so that people can reach them easily.

Housing and the Inner Cities

Many inner city areas are being regenerated. They are aiming to target younger professionals who want to be close to work, such as nurses and teachers.

Living near work saves time, money and reduces the environmental impact.

Young people in their 20's/30's living in the inner cities also have access to the shops and nightlife.

Families have different needs and want access to good schools and larger homes.

Many inner cities now have a focus on pulling down old, unpopular terraced housing and building flats for single or young couples and developing larger homes for young families.

Lozells in Birmingham has demolished its terraced housing and converted many of its larger Victorian houses from bedsits into larger family homes.

In Birchfield the older 1960's tower bocks have all been demolished to make way for affordable family housing.

The improvement of the inner cities for young professionals is called **gentrification**.

Rapid Urbanisation in the poorer world

Squatter settlements

•Caused by rapid urbanisation in many poorer areas of the world

•Causes an evolution of an informal sector

•Pace of rural-urban migration is too fast to allow time needed to build proper houses and for economy to grow enough to provide jobs

•Also called shanty towns and slums. A squatter has no legal right to stay there.

•People in them generally govern themselves and have a strong community spirit

•Settlements that are built illegally in and around the city and are unplanned. Also called **spontaneous settlements.**

•People find unoccupied areas of land and materials and begin to build own makeshift shelters

Problems

•Few official jobs available people, therefore people create their own employment, selling items making and repairing things on a small scale, becoming couriers cleaners gardeners taking in laundry. They work long hours for low pay. This is called the **Informal Economy.** Workers pay no tax, but have zero job security, pensions or health care.

•Houses not provided with sanitation/toilets, piped water, electricity, road access

•Houses made of any materials nearby – corrugated iron, pieces of board, haphazardly assembled to provide basic shelter, simple layout may have sleeping area separate from living area.

•Water must be collected from a nearby source and carried back daily

•Poor quality of life – housing and environment mainly responsible but also economic circumstances they find themselves in – lack of money makes improvement difficult

•Crime problem, limited policing.

•Children often don't go to school, limiting education.

•Families live on top of one another

•Very overcrowded area

•Area quickly degenerates into place of disease

Strategies to improve living conditions

Self-help

- local authorities support residents in improving their homes.
- Involves cooperation between residents to work together and remove rubbish.
- local authorities offer grants, cheap loans, building materials, to encourage
- improvement to be made, standpipes provided for access to water supply and sanitation, collectively may begin to build health centre and schools,
- legal ownership of land granted to encourage improvement to take place marking an acceptance of the housing

Site and service-

- More formal development. Land is identified for scheme and infrastructure is laid in advance of settlement so that water sanitation and electricity are supplied to individually marked plots.
- People then build homes with whatever they can afford at the time. They can add to and improve the structure if finances allow later
- An example is Old Naledi in Gabarone, Botswana. It was too expensive to bulldoze the squatter settlement of 6000 people. In 1975 the squatter settlement was made legal and the city council built roads and provided water and drainage. Every family was given its own plot of land.
- Once the area has developed, schools shops and community buildings, such as health centers and churches are added.

Local authority schemes

- Take many forms and involve large-scale improvements to some squatter settlements. New towns can be constructed and old settlements demolished such as Vision Mumbai.

CASE STUDY: IMPROVING A SQUATTER SETTLEMENT, MUMBAI INDIA.

Vision Mumbai

- Scheme is led by the City council/ local authority.
- Trying to improve the quality of life in the Dharavi slum in Mumbai.
- Quality of life and housing has plummeted as the slums have multiplied.
- Land is worth in excess of $10billion to developers.
- Plan involves demolishing the slums and giving land to developers cheaply. In exchange the developers are required to build new and better homes for the slum dwellers.
- 1.1 million low costs homes are expected to be built.
- Aim to reduce slum dwellers by 90%.
- Water supply, sanitation and healthcare would all be improved.
- Many of the homes will be apartment blocks with the aim to build upwards too save on space.
- Developers will also build up market apartments and expensive shopping malls to increase profits.

Problems with Vision Mumbai

- People will be left homeless while new homes are built
- Many homes are also businesses and people will be out of work during the redevelopment.
- Many of the new homes are smaller than the present slum housing and cottage industries based out of homes will have less space to operate in the future. There will be fewer workshops and businesses.
- Economic crisis has brought the project to a standstill, but many people have already had their homes demolished.

Environmental problems of rapid urbanisation

Water pollution
Big industries in Mumbai dump raw waste straight into the Mithi River.
Airport dumps untreated oil into the river
800 million litres of untreated sewage go into the river
Dharavi is built alongside the river.

Flood risk
In July 2005 1/4 of Mubai was flooded and the airport closed. It cost $100million dollars after waste metals and plastic clogged the river and drains.

Air Pollution
Illnesses such as bronchitis are common due to gas release from cars/factories.

Solutions to Mumbai's environmental problems

Water Solutions

- 2005 Mithi river project setup to prevent serious flooding from happening again.
- River channel was dredged to make it deeper and to hold more water. banks were smoothed to make the water flow more easily.
- Waste discharges from factories are now checked to ensure that the river is cleaner.
- More public toilets have been built to reduce the amount of raw sewage being dumped into the river.

Air Solutions

- A new metro system in 2011 aims to reduce congestion and encourage more people to use public transport.
- By 2021 the metro will have 9 lines, mainly underground.
- The city has banned diesel fuel in all 58,000 of its taxis. Many of these taxis now use compressed natural gas reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Main roads upgraded with 55 new flyovers to improve traffic flow and limit congestion and air pollution.

Sustainable Urban Living

Sustainable living means meeting the needs of people today without putting the needs of future generations at risk.

Conserving the historical and natural environment

- Old industrial buildings such as warehouses can be turned into apartments.
- Canals in ciities can be rebranded and regenerated as leisure facilities.
- Use more renewable energy sources.
- Recycle water rather than pumping it from reservoirs.

Running fuel efficient public transport system.

Use of brownfield sites and green belts

- Green belts = area where restrictions placed on building to prevent outward expansion of towns and cities and to protect natural environment
- Urban sprawl = uncontrolled outward expansion of built-up area of town/city
- Provides recreational open space for residents
- Alternative locations for development must be offered for growth to continue
- Building on brownfield sites encouraged

Encourages sustainability **see earlier notes**

Providing adequate open spaces

- councils choose to restrict building around cities = open space for recreation purposes
- Many areas within cities have designated areas of open space:
  - Parks, Playing fields, Individual gardens
- Protecting areas of natural beauty, such as Epping Forest to support wildlife and offer recreational opportunities for city dwellers.

Involving local people

- People with ownership of ideas / involvement / in control of their own destiny are more likely to respond positively and care for their building / environment
- Essential to consult people at planning stages before decisions are made
- Residents form associations to gain stronger collective voice
- Asking what residents want + providing it = happy residents + residents who take better care of their homes
- This can involve 'minor' things such as colour schemes for paint / bathroom suites etc.
- Meetings in local halls where plans can be seen and discussed = opportunity to give views + feeling of inclusion not exclusion

Providing an efficient public transport system

- Volume of cars as private transport = barrier to sustainability of a city
- Congestion charging = unattractive to drivers ==> use alternative transport
- Public Transport must be efficient, reliable and comfortable
- Underground and rail links in London - improvements are a key focus
- Tube trains, lines and stations all being upgraded
- Overground links to be extended to form complete circuit around London - railway equivalent to M25
- Improvements to bus safety and making buses more frequent to reduce overcrowding will make them more attractive
- 2008, CCTV on all buses to increase feelings of safety / security
- More bus stops gaining bus shelters
- Quality / accessibility improvements - over 75% of buses have low floor access
- Extended bus lanes = quicker journeys
- Oyster cards = reduced rates + faster service = HAPPIER travellers!

Sustainable Urban living: BedZED London

Beddington Zero Energy Development, near Croydon, London.

- Largest Carbon-neutral eco-community in the UK.
- It was built on reclaimed land and focuses on social and environmental sustainability.
- Promotes energy conservation.
- 100 apartments and houses, as well as offices/workplaces.

The Homes

- Use 81% less energy for heating and 45% less electricity.
- Recycle 60% of their waste.

What makes BedZed Sustainable?

Uses natural recycled or reclaimed building materials. 300m insulation on all buildings Green Transport plan, walking, rail or access to shared electric ZEDCars. Houses have roof gardens to save space. Recycles waste and rain water.	Heating from cooking helps to warm the homes. Homes use solar panels to produce renewable energy. Houses face south to gain the maximum solar power. Energy tracking Meters in kitchens to help peope monitor energy use.